

## **News from U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC)**

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US House of Representatives – Washington, DC

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Wednesday, March 17, 2004 – For Immediate Release

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# **Democratic Amendments**

## **Markup of Budget Process Bill**

1. **Reconciliation May Not Increase Deficit**

**Rep. Spratt**

This amendment establishes a point of order against reconciliation legislation that would increase the deficit or decrease the surplus for any fiscal year covered by the legislation.

2. **Extending PAYGO**

**Reps. Thompson and Moore**

This amendment extends PAYGO in the form it was first adopted under the Budget Enforcement Act of 1990, applying to both mandatory spending and tax cuts.

## **Markup of the 2005 House Budget Resolution Day Two**

### **Remaining Tier I Amendments 20 Minutes Debate**

1. **Helping the Jobless and Creating New Jobs**

**Reps. Majette, Hooley, Baldwin, DeLauro, Scott, Capps, Davis, and Kind**

This amendment provides \$6.5 billion for programs that help jobless workers and promote job creation by helping small businesses start, grow, and become more competitive. Specifically, the amendment: (1) continues federal extended unemployment benefits through June; (2) provides funding for Small Business Administration general business loans and the microloan program, and rejects the

President's proposal to sharply increase general business loan fees; (3) restores funding for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership to \$110 million for 2005 (this program received only \$39 million for 2004, a 63 percent reduction that harmed the program's ability to fulfill its mission of helping small manufacturers); and (4) provides an additional \$150 million for dislocated worker and adult training programs. The amendment is offset by a slight reduction (19 percent) of the tax cuts received under the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 and the Jobs and Growth Tax Reconciliation Act of 2003 for people with annual adjusted gross incomes of more than \$1 million, leaving them with tax cuts averaging \$103,041.

## **Tier II**

### **15 Minutes Debate**

**2.      Extend PAYGO Rules to Cover All New Tax Cuts and Mandatory Spending**  
**Reps. Thompson, Spratt, Davis, Cooper, Kind**

This amendment revises the budget enforcement section in the resolution to establish real checks on unfunded tax cuts and mandatory spending increases.

**3.      Increase Funding for Veterans Health Care**  
**Reps. Edwards, Hooley, Baldwin, Moore, Scott, Capps, Thompson, Baird, Davis, Majette, Kind**

The amendment increases funding for veterans health care by \$2.5 billion above the amount requested in the President's budget for 2005 as recommended by the Committee on Veterans Affairs and reduces the deficit by an amount equal to the outlay costs of this provision. The additional resources would improve access and reduce waiting time for all veterans; provide long-term care by maintaining the current number of nursing home beds; reduce or eliminate the increased copayments and enrollment fees proposed in the budget; increase funds for medical facility construction and renovation; and provide the resources necessary for more responsive reviews of claims and appeals. The amendment is offset by a slight reduction (9.8 percent) of the tax cuts received under the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 and the Jobs and Growth Tax Reconciliation Act of 2003 for people with annual adjusted gross incomes of more than \$1 million, leaving them with tax cuts averaging \$115,039.

**4.      Homeland Security**  
**Reps. Moran, Hooley, Baldwin, Scott, Capps, Emanuel, Majette, Kind**

This amendment provides \$1.6 billion for additional homeland security funding, including additional funding for first responders, port security, aviation security, and other programs, as well as funding to restore the reduction in the Chairman's mark below the amount proposed in the President's budget for homeland security funding. The amendment also reduces the deficit by an amount equal to the

outlay costs of this provision. The amendment is offset by a slight reduction (11 percent) of the tax cuts received under the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 and the Jobs and Growth Tax Reconciliation Act of 2003 for people with annual adjusted gross incomes of more than \$1 million, leaving them with tax cuts averaging \$113,900.

**5. Support Working Families**

**Reps. Baldwin, DeLauro, Hooley, Lewis, Edwards, Capps, Cooper, Emanuel, Davis, Majette**

This amendment increases child care funding by \$1.3 billion for 2005, which will provide affordable child care for an additional 267,000 children of low-wage working parents. This amendment strikes the “deficit neutral” reserve fund for the uninsured, and instead provides a reserve fund with \$5 billion in real funds for 2005. The funds would be used to provide affordable, comprehensive health insurance coverage to the uninsured and build upon and strengthen public and private coverage, including preventing the erosion of existing coverage under Medicaid or the State Children’s Health Insurance Program. The amendment is offset by a slight reduction (21 percent) of the tax cuts received under the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 and the Jobs and Growth Tax Reconciliation Act of 2003 for people with annual adjusted gross incomes of more than \$1 million, leaving them with tax cuts averaging \$101,000.

**6. Help Build Safe Communities**

**Reps. Scott, Moran, Hooley, Moore, Baird, Emanuel, Davis, Majette**

This amendment adds \$1.3 billion to restore local law enforcement cuts in the Republican resolution and the President's budget and reduces the deficit by an amount equal to the outlay costs of this provision. The amendment provides additional funding for the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program (\$700 million), the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant program and Edward Byrne grants (\$400 million), programs within the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (\$200 million), and the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas program (\$25 million). The amendment is offset by a slight reduction (8.7 percent) of the tax cuts received under the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 and the Jobs and Growth Tax Reconciliation Act of 2003 for people with annual adjusted gross incomes of more than \$1 million, leaving them with tax cuts averaging \$116,450.

**7. Restoring the Commitment to Environmental Protection and Conservation**

**Reps. Kind, Capps, Moran, Hooley, Baldwin, Davis, Majette**

This amendment increases funding for Function 300 by \$2.2 billion to restore cuts to environmental protection, conservation, and preservation programs (*e.g.*, water infrastructure, mandatory farm conservation programs, conservation spending

category, etc.). This amount would restore Function 300 to the baseline level for 2005. The amendment also reduces the deficit by an amount equal to the outlay costs of this provision. This amendment is offset by a slight reduction (15 percent) of the tax cuts received under the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 and the Jobs and Growth Tax Reconciliation Act of 2003 for people with annual adjusted gross incomes of more than \$1 million, leaving them with tax cuts averaging \$108,500.

8. **Continuing Investment in Highway and Transit Infrastructure**

**Reps. Baird, Moran, DeLauro, Thompson, Davis, Majette**

This amendment increases funding for highway and transit programs by a total of \$5.9 billion. This amount is consistent with the recently-passed Senate transportation reauthorization bill totaling \$318 billion and would provide the level of 2005 funding outlined in said bill. The amendment provides an additional \$4.5 billion in 2005 for the federal-aid highway program, bringing the program's total obligation limitation to \$37.9 billion. An additional \$1.4 billion in 2005 for mass transit programs is provided, bringing funding to \$8.7 billion. This amendment is offset by a slight reduction (20 percent) of the tax cuts received under the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 and the Jobs and Growth Tax Reconciliation Act of 2003 for people with annual adjusted gross incomes of more than \$1 million, leaving them with tax cuts averaging \$102,600.

9. **Protecting Medicaid**

**Rep. Capps**

This amendment strikes the reconciliation instructions to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

10. **Protecting Civil Service Integrity**

**Rep. Cooper**

This amendment provides \$250,000 to GAO for an investigation into the alleged suppression by the Department of Health and Human Services, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and potentially the White House, of information produced by the CMS Office of the Chief Actuary pertaining to P.L. 108-173, the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003

**Tier III**  
**10 Minutes Debate**

11. **Increase Funding for Military Survivor Benefits**

**Reps. Edwards, Hooley, Emanuel, Capps, Baldwin, Majette**

12. **Economically Distressed Areas Relief Amendment — Rep. Davis**
13. **Sense of the House on Use of Taxpayer Dollars / Prohibit Taxpayer Dollars from Being Used to Outsource or Take Offshore Work Presently Done in the United States — Reps. DeLauro, Hooley, Edwards, Emanuel**
14. **Army Corps of Engineers — Reps. Hooley, Baird, Capps**
15. **Sense of the Congress on Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Building and Facilities Fund — Rep. Majette, Moran**
16. **Increase Vocational and Technical Education Funding — Rep. Kind, Hooley, Baird**
17. **Striking Automatic Debt Limit Increase Language — Rep. Moore**
18. **Sense of the Congress Regarding Pay Parity — Rep. Moran**
19. **Healthy Forests — Rep. Hooley**
20. **Increase National Institutes of Health Funding to Maintain Purchasing Power — Reps. Baldwin and Hooley**
21. **Urban Revitalization — Reps. Lewis, Scott, Davis, Majette, and Moran**
22. **Increase Refundability of the Child Tax Credit for Low-Income Families and Military Families by Closing the Corporate Expatriates Loophole — Reps. DeLauro, Cooper, Emanuel**
23. **Point of Order Against Legislation that Increases the Deficit or Decreases the Surplus Outside of a Five-Year Budget Window — Rep. Thompson**

24. **Extension of Higher Education Tuition Deduction — Reps. Emanuel and DeLauro**
25. **Equity in Land Grant Funding — Reps. Davis, Majette, Ford**
26. **Increase Conservation, Child Nutrition and Rural Development Funding, and Reduce the Deficit through Farm Payment Limitations — Rep. Kind**
27. **Sense of the House Regarding Unfunded Mandates on the States — Reps. DeLauro, Emanuel**
28. **Sense of the House Regarding a Trigger Mechanism for Prescription Drug Price Negotiation — Rep. Emanuel**